

Recreation Board Meeting

July 30, 2007 Minutes

Sally Davidson called the meeting to order at 6:12 PM. Present were: Sally Davidson, Lori Bussiere, Dan Dilella, Linda Hall, Frank Hall, Ken Johnson, Mel Adams and Benjamin Carr the reporter for the Northfield News and Transcript.

Asked to table minutes June 11 and July 16, 2007. Motion made by Linda and seconded by Frank.

Hot dog machine – Dan said it should work but Lisa said the Little League is willing to loan us one. Jessica has never mentioned she doesn't want the hot dog machine. Lori stated as a parent, people like hot dogs. Dan suggested we try a partnership with Little League for use of their hot dog machine. Our goal is to get groups together.

In two days went through 200 ice pops. Lisa said no service with coke about the machine. Dan talked to his coke guy Alex – he said he couldn't touch it. He called his boss Lenny, the reason they missed us was because of weather. Dan talked to Jessica and told her to get the order. Dan feels now this situation is settled. Coke key is at the municipal building. Check with Jessica to make sure all is well.

Lori wanted to recognize the guards at the end of the season. Dan says Rotary does something for organizations at the end of summer. Maybe the week of closing we could organize something. Check with Jessica, closing date is August 25th so maybe August 26th or first week of September.

Wednesday is Hawaiian night.

Vulgarity issue and swimsuit problem at the Pool continued. Linda asked what is the result? Dan said what is going on needs to be addressed with the Select Board. Linda also made the comment she would not want to buy a membership and have her family listening to vulgarity.

Sally added that we have a zero tolerance policy. Not sure what is wrong with non-compliance. She has been in contact with Town Manager but so far no feedback from Manager.

Ken says he is not surprised, we haven't heard back on these issues. Dan asked, we just want to do our job, we thought we knew, but we can find out our own way. We need to outline procedure.

Ken says you came to us and we were very happy that a few people wanted to help. Ken went up to the pool and checked things out and he felt someone has been trying to get rid of the pool area. Ken viewed the pictures we took of trouble areas. In all fairness to this board he could not understand how we can do anything with the lack of help from the town office.

Linda says we need to take care of wish list and things and the town needs to take care of the facilities. The town should have taken care of the big problem like concrete, electricity, water, etc.

Sally says we need to run programs and get help from management to take care of the facility issues

Ken says he was very impressed with the people who took on the job of this board. You need to be able to look at budgets to make decisions. You people gave us a plan in the beginning and so far all he sees is bickering and people not trying to help you.

Linda says vulgarity issues are causing a problem for Northfield and this has not been addressed from the higher authority. We have done our part by notifying the management. It is up to management to investigate the problem and give us feedback. We are not going to get into personnel matters unless management needs our input.

Ken says he knows we had a lot to deal with and we should have had some help from the management.

Dan says we need to approach this as a corporation or like a big family where everyone helps out and not be territorial.

Sally says she can get help from Police and Norwich with students who want to help. Its just trying to get everybody on a time schedule that works, plus

the weather has been a problem for the welder.. Dan and Sally have been working on paint.

Dan says we need to get others to help and work with us so we all know what we have to do.

Linda says why can't we give a list of things to do and see what needs to be done and get feedback as to what is being done.

Ken says get a Director to work through a list and also have this board look at it and pass it on to the select board.

Dan says some of us have degrees in recreation and says why not use our expertise. Many of these issues could be handled with ease if the public realizes we just want all facilities open for all .

Budget - Mel came in at 6:50 as he thought it started at 7:00. He said we should have a monthly budget report given to us every month .

Linda informed Mel about our policy about zero tolerance of vulgarity that was brought to the attention of the town manager and has not been addressed about the issue. Mel informed us that he had not heard about this and was sure Nancy would take care of it. He said she has a lot on her plate.

Jessica should have terminated this employee. Dan says we were told not to deal with personnel issues nor do we want to.. None of the board knows who the person was at this time.

Sally said we took it to Jessica and Nancy and no discussion followed.

Ken says there is a lack of flow of communication. Linda said we should be able to communicate with all parties involved so issues can be solved.

Sally says she expects us to report issues to Nancy and we should get programs going and set up availability of facilities. She hopes that the Manager will keep us in the loop with feedback.

Mel says we should not be involved in fixing things, just run the programs. We agreed but informed him had we not looked into some of these problems, who would and when would they be repaired.

We should be dealing with just a program budget. We agreed but as we see problems we need to inform Management so they can plan on how best to fix the problems.

Dan said we have identified many problems such as facility, personnel and other issues, but the problem is, there is no commitment from Manager's office.

Mel said let Nancy know and try to fix it, if she says they can't then she should ask if we can find someone else to do it. Sally said that was not our responsibility and should be handled by maintenance.

Linda said if we have a facility manager we should talk to this person and get it done. No one knows who this person is and who does he get orders from. WE have been told he mows the lawns, but if he is a maintenance worker he should be able to do other work to.

Dan said back when he and Linda were on the committee they ran it like a family, then they had to turn it over to the select board and it just went down from there. Everything is territorial now. All the territory is here through groups and the town. We need to fix the facilities and get things done through the Select Board and the town manager and get rid of territories..

Linda says things haven't been done in years. Mel said that was true and before we hired the Town Manager.

Dan said he would take care of these issues for facilities. It has been traditional that the school takes care of some of the facilities during the school year and then it is up to the Rec. Board after that.

Frank said we have shown some of the problems several weeks ago and just need the person who will take care of those problems to let us know that the problems have been noted and will be addressed as time and funding become available. We are not here to pick on anyone, just need feedback and to get things done

Ken showed Mel his list he did while he did a walk through and found many deficiencies at the pool, decaying concrete and other things.

Dan says why are we telling you about all these problems. He says 50 years ago in the Northfield News there were 50 people using the pool at that time; today there are 500 or more using it. It needs work and should be fixed as well as many of the other deficiencies.

Linda says we have been trying to work with groups to get them to help us make the facilities more accessible to everyone.

Dan says there would be less conflict once we have all the groups together with all their input and a community calendar up and running.

Sally says the application part works if all groups participate.

Mel says town

Dan says the high school charged for tournament at Northfield high School games even though some residents were there for the park and not the game. They may need to move the ticket people closer to the field and not on the road.

Sally says Ballroom dancers are Northfield residents first (Mel felt a little pressure).

Dan said we should be able to use school facilities all year around.

Mel says you people will handle scheduling and give select board list of things to be done.

Linda says Bill should see what needs to be done and he will take care of it as needed.

Mel says we should have a budget every month. Donations come into the Town but go to recreation board donating fund. Mel says tell town manager you need to purchase items and it will be manager job to see that it gets purchased. If you have committee funds to do a project the select board will make decision if recreation board can show they can guarantee the maintenance .

Sally says who decides what we get. Sally says Ballroom dancers pay \$90.00 for 7 weeks, who do I talk to about the funds?

Mel says talk to Laurie at town office even though she has been told not to. Keep a separate line item.

Dan said we need to have open discussions about what we are doing

Linda says in prior years school used pools and kept money. Some of our meddling has made people against us. WE are now making enough money to keep things going.

Lori said town manager stormed out of one of our meeting and she was stunned.

Dan says people took offense at us because we started asking people to make out application. This was because of the territory problem.

Ken said he has no doubt that this board can do the job.

Dan says school uses school budget money during school season to take care of the fields and have done so for many years.

Mel says in Randolph they paid for sports to pay for some of the cost.

Linda says we are trying to cover cost of maintenance. We only want to charge the groups who charge to use the facility.

Dan again says territorial.

Linda says Sally did a lot of legwork working on finding out who have programs. Many of the groups have filled out the applications, but there are still others that need to.

Sally says she has been talking with Nicole DiDomenico about freeing up some fields at Norwich University. They are planning a meeting with President Snieder..

Mel wants to know about Bean field.

Sally says School Board should think about purchasing cemetery field "Gross field".

Mel and Ken said they feel we are going in the right direction.

Ken asked Mel to handle vulgarity issue at the pool. Mell said he would look into it.

Sally says maybe ask Sue Barnard to come to a meeting,as she might have a lot of good ideas for us.

Dan says school used to do many programs free.

Other Business: Lori thinks we should have a lightning detector. We all agreed this is a good idea and we will let Nancy know. WE should have one at the Falls and the Pool.

Sally asked Dan to ask Coke about umbrella for guard chairs, he said ok.

Dan says he has seen tents up to put shade on all of the pool area up in Maine. Sally says maybe in the future.

Sally has a grant for Lisa.

Linda says Lori and Lisa have done a great job at the pool and Dan and I agree with her. Many thanks

Sally has called two people to fill in for an open position.

Lori says Nancy wants us to be better about getting budget issues at our meetings. So we will comply.

Bill Payments: Wal-Mart purchase for ice pops @ \$35.22 reimbursement to Lisa,

Costco purchase for chips @ \$39.96 – reimbursement to Lori

Party purchase for Theme Night decorations @ \$93.36 – reimbursement to Jessica, Capital Candy orders 1 @ \$154.29 and another @ \$145.00

Motion by Linda to pay the bills at Capital Candy and reimburse members who made appropriate purchases. Dan seconded.

Passed 5-0-0

Jessica said she made \$179,00 in one day for example. The concessions are really doing well.

NEXT MEETING: August 13th 6 P.M.

End of year report – Dan says we need to email Jessica to think about her report, weather, staffing, theme night, boys and girls, pool hours, lessons, what her expectations are, facility, and recommendations, and support.

Meeting called o end at 8:45. Linda making the motion to close and seconded by Lori, all were in favor to close. 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted by Frank Hall